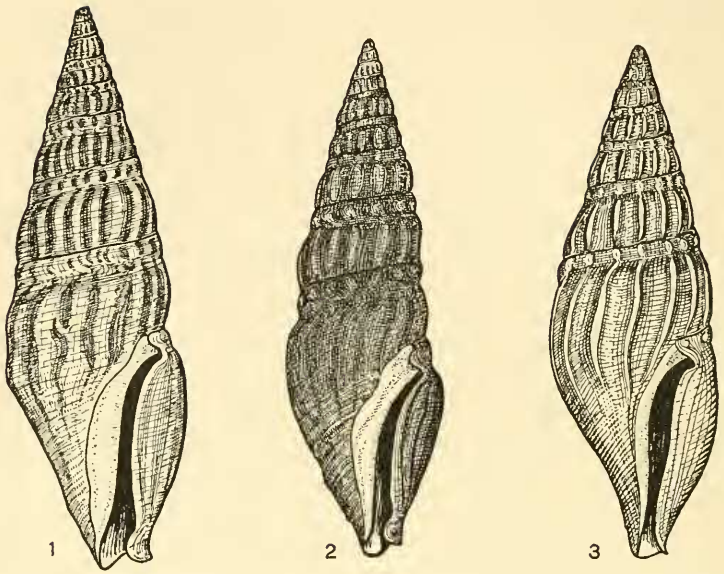

FIG. 1. *Pseudomelatoma semiinflata* Grant and Gale, from Pleistocene of Baldwin Hills, Calif. FIG. 2. *Pseudomelatoma semiinflata redondoensis* n. var., type specimen from 25 fathoms off Redondo Beach, Calif. FIG. 3. *Pseudomelatoma penicillata* (Carp.), from Scammon's Lagoon, L. C.

U. S. National Museum, California Academy of Sciences, and to the collections of G. Willett, U. S. Grant IV, M. Gordon, P. Connolly, and T. & J. Burch. One specimen was dredged by the author off Avalon, California in 25 fathoms, another by the Kerckhoff Labratories off Newport Bay, California, and still another was collected at low tide in Newport Bay by Mr. Whitmore of Redondo Beach.

THE TYPE OF *POLYGYRA* SAY

BY H. A. PILSBRY

Although the selection of a genotype for *Polygyra* was considered briefly by the writer in 1930 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 82: 311) and by Dr. Harald A. Rehder in 1936 (NAUTILUS 49: 102), it appears that some further notes are needed for a full understanding of the matter.

Say instituted the genus *Polygyra* in 1818 for three species: *P. auriculata, P. avara* and *P. septemvolva,* which he described in the same paper.

In his Index Molluscorum, etc., 1837, pp. 21, 23, Beck divided *Polygyra* into two subgenera: (1) *Daedalochila,* a new subgenus for *P. auriculata* Say and *P. avara* Say, and (2) *"Polygyra* Say" in a restricted sense for the following:[1]

P. insularum B. [nude name]
P. contortuplicata B. [nude name]
P. planorbula Lm. [= *P. septemvolva* Say]
P. septemvolva Say
P. heligmoidea d'Orb.

Of these species the first two had not been described in 1837, and are thus excluded from consideration. The third, *planorbula* Lamarck, is recognized as a synonym of *P. septemvolva* Say. *P. heligmoidea* is obviously Orbigny's *"Helix" heligmoidea* from Guayaquil, superficially somewhat similar to *P. septemvolva* but now known to belong to the Streptaxidae.

By crediting *Polygyra* to Say and including *septemvolva,* one of Say's species, Beck practically indicated the genotype. *P. septemvolva is the only eligible species in the list,* since Orbigny's species is excluded because it was not in Say's original publication of the genus. *Polygyra* Say, as restricted by Beck, was therefore virtually monotypic! However, there was no more definite type designation.

In November, 1847, J. E. Gray, in a list of molluscan genera their synonyms and types (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, part 15, p. 173), has the following two entries bearing on *Polygyra.*

"Polygyra, *Say,* 1817; *Swains,* 1840. Helicodonta *Férus.* Daedalochila *Beck,* 1837. P. auriculata."

"Polygyra, sp. *Say, Beck.* Helix septemvalva."[2]

Thus Gray designated two types for *Polygyra* on the same page. It might be argued that Gray named a type for *Polygyra* Say and

[1] Beck included also, but with a "?," three other species; but these are excluded from consideration as genotypes by the International Rules, Art. 30, II, e, γ.

[2] *"Helix septemvalva"* is evidently a typographic error for *septemvolva.* Gray's paper abounds in errors; there are two in this short quotation. The date 1817 is wrong for *Polygyra.*

then another for *Polygyra* Beck. But the record shows that Beck was not proposing a new subgenus, but merely restricting Say's genus. I believe that any zoologist would consider Gray's designation of a type for "*Polygyra* sp. Say, Beck," as a perfectly valid type designation for *Polygyra* Say.

Since Gray, as we have seen, named two types for *Polygyra,* the final choice of one genotype rests with the next author dealing with the genus. That was Herrmannsen, Dec. 7, 1847, Indicis Generum Malacozoorum Primordia, 2: 317, who designated *Helix septemvolva* Say the type of *Polygyra* Say.

It should be added that I have had the benefit of advice on the technical points of the case from Dr. Witmer Stone of the International Commission on Nomenclature, and from Dr. H. Burrington Baker.

A PLEISTOCENE SNAIL FROM SAN MIGUEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

BY T. D. A. COCKERELL

In May I spent a week on San Miguel Island, and while there was kindly taken by Mr. H. S. Lester to the locality where he found remains of fossil elephants (thought to be of two species) some years ago. The elephant beds, obviously of Pleistocene age, occur on the north side of the island, at the top of the slope or cliff, and the material, evidently once mud, is now extremely solid and hard to work; had it not been so, it would long ago have been eroded away. I found fragments of elephant tusks, and part of a bone of some other animal, while here and there Mr. Lester and I found snail shells embedded. These are much smaller than the living species of the island, but presumably ancestral to it. The fossil may be called

HELMINTHOGLYPTA AYRESIANA LESTERI n. subsp.

Similar to *H. ayresiana* (Newcomb), but max. diam. 14–16 mm., alt. 10–11.5 mm.; the single band, and the sculpture, with distinct spiral lines, as in *H. ayresiana.* One shell, perhaps not strictly contemporaneous with the others, is larger, max. diam. 20 mm., and more flattened than usual. Type Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. No. 170430.